



**JEFFERSON PARK EXPANSION**  
**PUBLIC MEETING #2**  
**Thursday, December 15, 2005**  
Jefferson Community Center

**Staff Members**

**Present:**

Randy Robinson, Project Manager  
Carolyn Law, Pro Parks Arts Coordinator  
Randy Smith, Jefferson Community Center Coordinator  
Cheryl Fraser, Parks South Resource Manager

**Other Team Members  
present:**

Greg Brower, Andy Mitton, of the The Berger Partnership; Elizabeth Conner, Project Artist

**Welcome:**

Community members were welcomed to the meeting by Randy Robinson and other staff members were introduced.

**Project Overview**

Randy R. gave a brief overview of the recent history of Parks Department projects at Jefferson Park including the Path, Gym, and Driving Range projects. The current project is the Jefferson Park Expansion – Phase I. The area of the project was shown on the aerial photograph including the areas of the SPU north and south Beacon Reservoirs.

The Jefferson Park Site Plan of 2002 was introduced with the commitment to stay as close to that plan as is possible considering all of the years of work that went into it.

The schedule of the Seattle Public Utilities Project – Beacon Reservoir was described as beginning construction in the summer of 2006 and completing in late 2008.

The project artist, Elizabeth Conner was introduced and the art project was briefly described.

**Schematic Design  
Presentation**

Greg Brower of The Berger Partnership, Landscape Architects started the discussion of schematic design with a summary of the design process to date. He described the site analysis and issues that were most important to the design such as access to the park, views, pedestrian circulation, etc. The visioning process for the park was summarized from previous meetings. Key ideas included: location, views, diversity, building community through sports, community involvement, inviting, logical flow, beauty, families, open space, and future generations. Greg also described the early design ideas, both conforming to the original 2002 Plan and some ideas that were different from that plan.

Next, the Proposed Schematic Design Plan was presented. This plan includes the entire Jefferson Park area. However, only some of the elements of the overall plan will be included in the construction being proposed for 2007-08. This was illustrated by a plan that focused on the new park development in the land that is currently reservoir property that is

now becoming park land. Greg pointed out the important aspects of the schematic plan including: the circular pathway system around the park, the interesting grading concept, the main plaza, the water features, the viewpoints, the athletic fields, the children's play area, tennis courts, restrooms, utilities, pedestrian lighting, picnic areas, and planting ideas.

## **Discussion of Schematic Design Plan**

Discussion about the Schematic Design Plan started with questions about the budget and what features are included. Randy mentioned that the budget was \$7.3 million for the currently funded project.

*Is the Driving Range project in that budget?* No, it is funded separately.

*Are all of the water features in that budget?* Greg responded that maybe the stormwater feature could be part of the budget but maybe not the fountains that use potable water.

*Where is the Department of Ecology (DOE) Air Quality Monitoring Station located?* Greg showed the location near the southwest corner of the reservoir.

*What about mitigation of the DOE facility?* Planting is possible, but probably not trees (Greg). DOE is currently proposing to use the existing trailer module.

*Is Mercer Middle School or Samoan Cricket on the Project Advisory Team (PAT)?* Randy responded that a representative from the Middle School is not on the PAT. The intention of the PAT this year was to have some new and some old PAT members who represented a broad section of the community and who could give a broad perspective to the design process. A running track will still be shown on the Schematic Plan, although we are struggling with how to include it in this currently funded project (which was the main interest of the middle school). The Samoan Cricket field is still shown exactly where it was shown in 2002.

*Is the criteria available to look at that were used to select the elements that will be funded?* The Design Program is available on the website. Greg showed the form that the PAT had used for selecting elements that would get funded as part of this project.

*Are the soccer fields going to be lighted?* The existing Jefferson Playfield, adjacent to Mercer Middle School is proposed to have lights as well as other field improvements. The soccer and baseball fields in the middle of the park are not currently proposed to have lights.

*What is the grade change in the northwest corner of the park?* About 40 feet (Greg Brower).

*Can there be more than one baseball field? The proposed baseball field is oriented well, but Little League fields can be oriented differently. The design team will look into that.*

*Baseball and soccer schedules do not overlap. Baseball and soccer schedules do overlap. Is this plan serving the most community members? Can there be someplace for little kids to play baseball or T-ball?* The

design team is following the 2002 Site Plan which had one new baseball field, one new soccer field, and space in the north meadow for little kid soccer or other casual sports. The design team will look into the idea of practice fields for young children baseball – maybe just a small backstop somewhere.

*Has Parks ever studied the impacts of ballfield lights on birds or local neighbors?* Yes, Parks did a study of all the lighted facilities. Jefferson was not a part of that study because there are no existing ballfield lights.

One local neighbor would like to see lighted soccer fields for neighborhood young children. Another wanted Parks to revisit the ballfield lighting issue and change the language of the Jefferson Park Expansion Project Design Program. *Randy mentioned that the Design Program was an approved and completed document that we are using to design the project – it cannot be changed at this time.* One person wanted to do a “straw poll” to see how many people in the room wanted ballfield lights and how many didn’t. Another person was uncomfortable with the idea of a “straw poll” and strongly objected. Randy suggested that people who wanted to pursue ballfield lighting could continue to pursue that but that the park design had to proceed with the schematic design that we have in front of us now.

*What are the sizes of the water features?* One water feature is about 40 feet across. The spaces are so large that the scale is deceptive. The water features are quite big, but we have to do more calculations to know for sure the actual size (Greg).

*Are there picnic areas in the north end of the park?* Yes, picnic tables, and picnic shelters if the budget can afford it. The play area and picnic areas could be built in proximity to each other.

*What about the art? What about cultural diversity in the art? What kind of art have you done in the past?* Elizabeth Conner responded that the project would involve water and land. She has done many public art projects in Seattle and Bellevue, parks, libraries, etc. Carolyn Law added that the art would be an experience of art in the park.

*What about parking? The new park facilities will require more parking. Seattle Parks never did a parking study like they said they would?* Randy responded that the impacts to parking were studied in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2002. There are creative options for parking in the area such as: the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital lot, 16th Avenue ROW, Mercer Middle School, the SPU lab building lot, etc.

*What about the Parks Dept. Horticulture lot?* That lot is currently not available. *Parks needs to follow up with existing agreements or make new agreements to make more parking available. Parks needs to be organizing the various parking lots. There are 280 spaces in the Beacon Ave. lot.* The organization of parking lots would be good.

*What about getting grants to build lighting for the ballfields?* Parks has not pursued the state and local grants like Washington State IAC or King

County grant. *What bout the Seattle Parks Foundation?* Parks staff do not think that the Seattle Parks Foundation has developed an interest in funding any part of the Jefferson Park plan. *The Youth Soccer Foundation and US Soccer Foundation are other possible grants.* Usually those grants involve a substantial volunteer effort and match from the community.

**Conclusion:**

Randy Robinson concluded the meeting at 8:30, thanked everyone for coming and mentioned that if anyone wanted to make additional comments, they were welcome to write on the back of the agenda and turn the comments into Randy or Greg and the comments will be included in the minutes.

**Written Comments:**

1. *Adding two more tennis courts is silly. Seattle has 151 courts. The Amy Yee Tennis Center is seeking expansion. Please relocate the tennis \$ to Amy Yee or to a different feature at Jefferson. The soccer fields in phase I is great. Parking solutions are necessary to bring SDOT into the solution. Using the VA parking lot off hours is great. 4 hour restricted parking on Beacon Ave. would eliminate the park and ride problem.*
2. *I have a family that plays soccer...we need a lighted field. Lights on the soccer field will barely be noticeable compared to the lights on the driving range. Also, please don't put baseball fields over soccer field. We want to be able to play soccer without fighting over the field space. This community is soccer oriented.*
3. *NO LIGHTS. Maybe lights could be installed at the soccer fields if the driving range lights were improved. Please remember that this is an Olmsted legacy park. Hence, all art, fountains, fixtures, and paths should have period-appropriate materials and appearances; e.g. concrete (not asphalt) walkways, art that is representative (not abstract/modern).*
4. *Other topics: Off-leash dog area. Running trail along perimeter (e.g. Green Lake).*

(There were 28 citizens that signed in on the meeting sign-in sheet)

**Next steps:**

The next Project Advisory Team (PAT) meeting will take place on January 19, 2005 at 6:30 at the Jefferson Lawn Bowling Clubhouse. The completed Schematic Design Plans will be displayed at Jefferson Community Center and other locations (maybe library) and on the website.

**Additional Information is Available:**

- Park web site: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/JeffersonPark.htm>
- Randy Robinson, Seattle Parks Project Manager, (206) 684-7035; [randy.robinson@seattle.gov](mailto:randy.robinson@seattle.gov)